resolved to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Inclusion of submarine launched ballistic missiles

2028. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China which is ahead of India in the scale and range of its nuclear forces has been augmenting its capacity by including submarine launched ballistic missiles;

(b) whether it is a fact that China is also working towards the goal of achieving super power status and modernising its armed forces; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto specially when our border disputes have not been resolved as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of reports about China's ongoing programme to modernise its armed forces. China is already known to possess nuclear-capable submarine launched ballistic missiles.

(c) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations, which are ongoing. The 1993 Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, and the 1996 Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas. Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary steps and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.